

the United Kingdom on behalf of the Central Government as well as the State Governments are kept by the Accounting Officer except in respect of certain transactions which are on an agency basis as a transitional arrangement. These are provisional arrangements and by the end of March 1953 these arrangements will also be terminated.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : According to the Annual Report, the Comptroller and Auditor-General is an authority set up under the Constitution of India and he is responsible for the audit of the entire expenditure incurred by the Union and State Governments except in the case of Railways, Defence Services and certain transactions in the United Kingdom. He is also responsible for maintaining the accounts of the Union and State Governments. Why is he not responsible for maintaining accounts of certain transactions ? And what are those transactions ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants to know the nature of the transactions.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : There are certain transactions representing genuine sterling assets and liabilities comprising transactions relating to public debt, unfunded debt, Indian Civil Service Family Pension Fund, deposits and advances, etc. Accounts relating to these transactions in the United Kingdom are kept by the Accounting Officer.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Does the revenue and expenditure—expenditure mostly—outside India, not constitute expenditure on behalf of the Union Government ? And if so, why is it that the Auditor-General of India, who is statutorily authorised to supervise all expenditure on behalf of the Union, does not supervise the expenditure outside the Union ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : I have stated, Sir, that those accounts are subject to the audit of the Comptroller and

Auditor-General of India. The question is as to who keeps the accounts. All these accounts in the United Kingdom are kept by the Accounting Officer.

11 A.M.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : I invite the hon. Minister's attention to part (a) of this question to which he has replied 'no'. Part (a) of the question asks whether all transactions made in the United Kingdom for and on behalf of India are subject to the supervision of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. Yes or no ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : Sir, it seems my hon. colleague has not yet understood the implication of the answer that I have given. I will read it out for his benefit again :

"All financial transactions in the United Kingdom involving expenditure of the Central and State Governments of India are subject to the audit control of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India."

I think, Sir, that is very clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question. Mr. Sundarayya.

SPARE PARTS FOR I.A.F. PLANES

*161. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : (a) Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state what are the sources from which Government procure spare parts and aero-machinery for the maintenance of the planes of the Indian Air Force ?

(b) What are the names of the companies from whom such supplies are obtained and the countries to which they belong ?

(c) Is it a fact that purchases have been made from the salvage department of certain aeroplane factories ?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, what are the details of and the reasons for the purchase of such salvaged material ?

(e) Was expert opinion obtained before the purchase was finalised? If so, who were the experts consulted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) :

(a) Spare parts and machinery for the maintenance of the planes now with the Indian Air Force are purchased from the country of the manufacture of each type of plane with the Indian Air Force.

(b) It is not in the public interest to furnish this information.

(c) Yes.

(d) The purchases had to be made from salvage departments as the spare parts were not available with the manufacturers in respect of the older type of aircraft. I regret that information as to the details of the purchases made is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would not be commensurate with its utility.

(e) The I. A. F. has its own technical staff which advises on such matters.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Sir, the hon. Minister said that when spare parts were not available from the manufacturers, then the Government was forced to buy these spare parts from the salvage departments of factories of other countries. Will the hon. Minister let us know the salvage departments of factories of different countries from which these spare parts have been purchased?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I think, Sir, I have not made myself clear. The spares have been purchased from the salvage departments of the factories concerned, i.e., from the manufacturers themselves.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Can we know, Sir, from which manufacturers' salvage departments you have purchased the spare parts?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Sir, we have got different types of aircraft and we have purchased them from different manufacturers.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Can I take it that we have purchased spare parts from all salvage departments of manufacturers?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : It is obvious that the spare parts of a particular aircraft cannot fit in any other aircraft. They are purchased from the manufacturers' salvage departments, if new ones are not available.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Sir, these spare parts are usually thrown away and they are not worth while keeping anywhere else except in a salvage department. Does the Government consider these spare parts in the salvage departments of different manufacturers suitable for the different aircrafts in India? Do these spare parts help to keep our aircraft in a fit condition?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : Sir, they are carefully examined by technical experts as to their suitability and whether they can be used with reasonable safety.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : If they can be used with reasonable safety why does the manufacturer concerned put these things in the salvage department?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : I have said that this applies only to some older types of aircraft. Probably these spares are not in demand and have been piled up in the salvage departments. Even owners of luxury cars in Delhi have sometimes to go to salvage shops for replacement of the old parts by such as may be found in good condition.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it not a fact that because you have purchased these stores from the salvage departments that air accidents have increased in our Air Force?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : No, Sir. It has no relation to that.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : Shall we have a definition of the scope of 'public interest' and its whole boundary ? In this way, it is easy to withhold any information that the Government pleases from this House.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA : It is only in connection with part (b) of the question which reads, "What are the names of the companies from whom such supplies are obtained and the countries to which they belong ?" that I withheld the information in public interest. I would respectfully submit, Sir, that no Government in the world can afford to disclose the names of the suppliers of its warlike stores, especially when the country is not self-sufficient and is importing them from foreign lands.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Has our Air Force become a dumping ground for the salvaged parts of Hawkers Ltd. ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

PREPARATION OF CALENDAR

*162. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any action to evolve and introduce a uniform and co-ordinated Indian calendar for the use of all people in India ;

(b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative :—

(i) whether the task has been entrusted to anyone ; if so, to whom ; and

(ii) what instructions, if any have been issued to those persons as regards the basic essentials to be followed in determining the final framework of any such uniform and co-ordinated Indian calendar ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : What is the reply, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : "(a) No, Sir ; (b) Does not arise."

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Why not, Sir ?

CUT IN SALARIES

*163. SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madras Government have requested the Government of India's permission for imposing a cut in the salaries of the Central Government officials working in that State, to bring them in line with the cut in the salaries of the State Government officials ;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter ; and

(c) what savings would result from this cut ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to officers of the All India Services, who are now serving in connection with the affairs of the State and who are being controlled and paid by the Madras Government. That Government have requested the concurrence and the assistance of the Government of India for the imposition of a 10% cut in the salaries of such officers.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Information on this point is being sought from the State Government and will have a material bearing on the consideration of the proposal.